

OPVL Analysis Tips

In analyzing a document for OPVL, consider the questions below and make reference to specific historical events or trends that illustrate your answers.

Origin:

- When was the document created?
- Who created it?
- Where did it first appear?
- Is it a primary or secondary source?
- What was the historical context in which it was created?

Purpose:

- Why did the author create the document?
- Who is the intended audience?

Value and limitations:

- What information was available to the author that might not be available elsewhere?
- What important information was *not* available to the author? (Consider when the document was created.)
- Did the author get information from a reliable source?
- Does the author have reasons to emphasize certain facts over others to a particular audience? Might the author present the story differently to different audience?
- What specific information might the author have chosen to leave out?
- Does the author concede a certain point that it is inconvenient for him/her to admit to?
- How might the historical context in which the document was created influence our interpretation?